

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 800
By Ferguson

A RESOLUTION to congratulate the members and officers of
Laurel Chapter #22 for 100 years of meritorious
service to their community.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should recognize those organizations
that have reached a milestone in their illustrious history; and

WHEREAS, the Order of the Eastern Star, Laurel Chapter #22 of Harriman is one such
organization and is celebrating its 100th year of service; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 1903, Mrs. Bell Derossett, Worthy Grand Matron, Mrs. Mary
R. Forbes, Grand Secretary and Amanda Chapter #4 organized a new chapter in Harriman,
Tennessee; under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of the State of Tennessee; Laurel
Chapter #22 was constituted on January 27, 1904 with 31 Charter Members; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Lou Julian, charter member and wife of the first Worthy Patron, named
the Chapter after the mountain laurel which thrives throughout Roane County and the Smoky
Mountain area; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Hoyland T. Martin served as the first Worthy Matron and also served
as the Worthy Grand Matron 1907-1908, Grand Chaplain 1907-1910 and 1936, and as Grand
Committee Member for several succeeding Worthy Grand Matrons; and

WHEREAS, in 1909 the Chapter moved into the council room of the Masonic quarters
atop the Bank of Roane County; meetings were held on the first and third Thursday of each
month from 1923 until 1953, at which time the Chapter voted to meet only upon the first
Thursday of each month; and

WHEREAS, Laurel Chapter #22 has been instrumental in constituting other local
chapters, including Sapphire Chapter #159 of Oneida in 1924, Rockwood Chapter #382 in 1941,
and Dyllis Chapter #498 in 1982; and

WHEREAS, throughout its history, the members of Laurel Chapter have donated their time and efforts to aiding the local school system, including sending dictionaries to South Harriman School, painting rest rooms and putting up new shades in each of the public schools, purchasing emergency kits for the city schools, purchasing school books for the needy, giving clothing to the city schools, giving clothing to and financially supporting a student, organizing the first night school in Harriman, sponsoring a ministerial student, awarding a \$500 scholarship to a Harriman High School student who planned to attend Roane State Community College, and instituting a yearly scholarship award; and

WHEREAS, since its founding, Laurel Chapter #22 has been known for its contributions to the community, as evidenced by its members' selfless acts of kindness and volunteerism; their charitable deeds include serving refreshments at the dedication of the Roane Medical Center; contributing to the International Order of the Eastern Star temple in Washington, D.C., which was dedicated on February 24, 1937; saving Octagon soap coupons for the Masonic home Committee; contributing to the building of the auditorium in the Masonic home; supporting the Masonic orphan home and a home for the elderly; supporting the war efforts of World War II by making clothes, working for the Red Cross, and numerous other contributions; and serving as pallbearers and conducting a graveside service; and

WHEREAS, seeking to help those in need, Laurel Chapter reached out to assist its fellow Chapters in times of despair, such as when equipment burned at the Spring City Chapter, when the hall at the Rockwood Chapter was lost to fire, and when the Coal Creek lodge burned; and

WHEREAS, Laurel Chapter sponsored the Rainbow Assembly #48 from 1978 to 1994; Laurel members have served on the Advisory Board, as the Mother Advisor, and as the Rainbow Grand District Deputy; and

WHEREAS, furnishing the Chapter room and many contributions to charities and organizations have been possible through a variety of fundraisers that Laurel Chapter has sponsored; some fundraising endeavors include oyster suppers, pie suppers, silver teas, coin showers, chili suppers, sock socials, pancake breakfasts, bazaars, apron socials, performances at the Princess Theater, and selling Home Interior products; and

WHEREAS, in March 1978, Laurel Chapter relocated to the newly built Southgate Masonic Lodge at 1306 Ruritan Road; its members held fundraisers and made donations in order help pay for the new building and to equip the kitchen; and

WHEREAS, Laurel Chapter presently has 169 members, 18 of which are 50-year members and 73 of which are 25-year members; 28 members have received Certificates of Appreciation and 27 members have received Grand Office appointments and/or have been mentioned in Grand Chapter Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the sixth oldest chapter in the State of Tennessee, Laurel Chapter has 27 past Matrons and 15 past Patrons; and

WHEREAS, the membership of Laurel Chapter #22 takes great pride in being an integral part of the community, and represents a wide spectrum of the citizens of Roane County; and

WHEREAS, having endured recessions, depressions, and war, as well as both national and personal crises, Laurel Chapter #22 remains strong and prosperous due to its principals, which are drawn from the Rob Morris objective to raise the status of lives of individuals by the appreciation of the "Fatherhood of God and the Sisterhood and Brotherhood of Man"; and

WHEREAS, it is for the noble efforts of the Order of the Eastern Star, Laurel Chapter #22 of Harriman for the past 100 years that this legislative body is most thankful; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby congratulate the members and officers of Laurel Chapter #22 for 100 years of meritorious service to their community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.